FILM TO EXAMINE KENNEDY INQUIRY

'Rush to Judgment' Assails Warren Group Findings

A 150-minute documentary film called "Rush to Judgment," dealing with the assassination of President Kennedy and the findings of the Warren Commission, is in the final stages of preparation here.

The movie is being co-produced by Mark Lane, the New York lawyer and author of the new book of the same title, and Emile de Antonio, who also directed the film. The book by Mr. Lane, a former New York assemblyman who was hired by Mrs. Marguerite Oswald as her legal aide before the Warren Commission's investigation involving her son, was published Aug. 15 by Holt, Rinehart and Winston. Mr. de Antonio was last represented on the local screen by "Point of Order," the successful documentary on the McCarthy hearings in Washington.

The director describes the forthcoming movie as a "strictly visual microcosm" of Mr. Lane's lengthy book, which "questions the investigational procedures of the commission under Aglo-Saxon jurisprudence, with cross-examination as the cornerstone."

Oswald's Guilt Left Open

The film, he said, asserts neither the guilt or innocense of of Lee Harvey Oswald as the killer of the late President.

"But we attempt to illustrate that certain key witnesses and pertinent areas were bypassed," he added.

Eighty per cent of the film was photographed last March and April in and around Dallas, with Mr. Lane and Mr. de Antonio supervising a camera unit recruited from San Francisco. The remainder of "Rush to Judgment" utilizes stock footage on the assassination and its aftermath. That part was bought from station WFAA-TV in Dallas.

According to the director, one major and one independent American movie company have already expressed interest in exhibiting the black-and-white documentary, whose budget was $60,000. He said:

"Unsolicited bids have come come from the three major television outfits in England, headed by the British Broadcasting Corporation, that nearly total our entire budget."

18 Hours of Film Shot

The original footage, totaling nearly 18 hours of running time, was shot in 16-mm. "to allow greater freedom of movement." A final, 35-mm. print, as edited into two and a half hours of playing time, is expected in three weeks.

The format of "Rush to Judgment" is that of a courtroom investigation, with Mr. Lane speaking a prologue and a resume. Among the persons interviewed for the documentary were 18 witnesses to the shooting.

"Six of them," Mr. de Antonio said, "were railroad workers standing on the overpass who were never even interviewed by the commission and who claim to have heard one additional shot from behind a wooden fence.

Key subsidiary roles are taken by five Dallas people, never summoned for testimony, who had vital evidence about Jack Ruby. Another person prominent in our film is Penn Jones Jr., the outspoken editor and publisher of The Midlothian (Tex.) Mirror."

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NYT 8/23/66

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